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Staines Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

1967

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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

Chairman: Councillor N.T. Galliford

Vice-Chairman: Councillor J.J. McGowan

Councillors Pett, Roberts, Robinson, Mrs. Spencer
and Willis.

Staff of the Public Health Department

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J.A.K. GARRATT

Technical Assistants

H.A. CROUCHER
A.H. FULLER

Chief Clerk

MISS L.M. PERRYMAN

Public Analyst

D.D. MOIR, M.Sc.,F.R.I.C.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this Annual Report for the year 1967. This is also the last full year for which I have this responsibility pending my retirement. It therefore seems appropriate to include some general observations as to the progress made by the Council in matters concerning the health of the district.

Good health is married to good housing. The bond between them is inescapable. In 1954 the first slum clearance five year programme was adopted and was virtually completed by 1960. There are still a few older houses without modern amenities, but these are being improved with grant aid wherever possible. Today fewer than 5% of the dwellings are without a bathroom, indoor sanitation or hot and cold water supply. Practically the whole of the area has main drainage.

The population continues to remain predominantly young and wage-earning. This is due to the excellent opportunities for work of all kinds in the district. The decline in the birth rate noted nationally is still very little in evidence here, total births being only 11 less than in 1966 and 16 less than in 1965. The number of infant deaths in their first year was 13, of which 12 were in the first month of life. I believe that future research into the causes of this continuing loss of young lives will achieve nationwide reduction of this figure. No lives can be more valuable to save than those only just begun. This year our infant mortality rate compares favourably with that of England and Wales, i.e. 13 as compared with 18.3, but comparisons should, of course, be made over a longer period than one year.

The illegitimate live birth rate is rising at a disturbing rate; this can be expressed as a percentage of the total live births in Staines district. Last year, of every 100 babies born 7 were illegitimate as compared with 4 in 1963, 3 in 1960 and 2 in 1957. There were two maternal deaths, both due to sepsis after procured abortion.

One feels a sense of defeat in the increased number of suicides, 6 males and 4 females. This presents a challenge which can be addressed to all the social organisations, the churches and all good neighbours.

In spite of improved traffic regulations the deaths from motor vehicle accidents remain unchanged, 12 people having died from this cause. The deaths from lung cancer and coronary disease have also increased.

There is, however, another side to the picture which must be mentioned.

Never before in the history of medicine, and particularly preventive medicine, has so much progress been made in the short span of 20 years. I

feel very conscious that I have been privileged to work in this field in these most important years. No longer do we record deaths from infectious diseases as other than a rarity. Measles will be well on the way during the coming year to becoming vanquished by preventive measures. Tuberculosis, that most dreaded scourge of industrial Britain during the last century and up to World War II, has dramatically declined. A multi-pronged attack via new drugs and treatment, mass x-ray units, pasteurisation of milk, eradication of disease in cattle, improved housing and meat and food inspection, and BCG vaccination, has placed the conquest altogether of this disease within sight. Diphtheria has not been notified here since 1947. In 1934 there were 66 cases notified and the mortality rate was always high. Smallpox, poliomyelitis and whooping cough have also receded into history as causes of death in this area. It is often said that "constant vigilance is the price of safety" and immunization or vaccination against all these last four diseases must be given to a high proportion of the young population, otherwise the enemies will return.

Swimming in the River Thames has always been popular, but the river water is polluted. This year Staines Council officially opened a magnificent indoor swimming bath, with an additional learners' pool. The public have made great use of this splendid amenity and 2000 bathers have been recorded as attending in one day. The water is purified to a high standard, and the schools have made full use of the teaching facilities provided. It is said that more people enjoy swimming as a physical relaxation or exercise than any other sport; Staines has every reason to feel proud of this amenity. No child now need leave school unable to swim.

It is with a sense of gratitude that I wish to record my close liaison with Ashford Hospital, to all the people who work there, and for all the help placed at the disposal of the Health Department. I am grateful also to the General Practitioners who keep in close touch and for whose help I never asked in vain, and I thank them cordially for their co-operation.

To the present and the past members of Staines Council I should like to express my thanks for their interest in the work of this Department, and for their encouragement and help over the years. St. Martin's Court, which provides welfare facilities in old persons' dwellings, "Elmsleigh" public conveniences, the Staines Indoor Swimming Pool, the "Safety in the Home" Committee, all have a close affinity with public health. In addition, the Council's constant interest in the rehousing of people with medical priority has been much appreciated.

To the staff of this Department in the Bridge Street Offices I extend my warmest thanks; particularly to Mr. J. Mullin, Chief Public Health Inspector and to Miss L.M. Perryman, the Chief Clerk, whose help has been unfailing and most valuable.

Your obedient servant,

Louise A. Matheson.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area - 8,271 acres.

Population (estimated mid-1967)	55,190
Number of houses, bungalows and flats at 1.4.67	16,810
Rateable value at 1.4.67	£3,293,221
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1967	£13,477

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	471	436	907
Illegitimate	34	37	71
	<u>505</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>978</u>

Live Birth Rate (per thousand population)	17.72
Comparability factor is 0.92 giving adjusted birth rate of	16.30
Birth Rate England and Wales	17.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.26

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	11.12
Still Birth Rate England and Wales	14.8
Total Live and Still Births	989

<u>Deaths</u>	Male	233
	Female	217
		<u>450</u>

Death Rate (per thousand population)	8.2
Comparability factor is 0.92, giving adjusted death rate of	7.5
Death Rate England and Wales	11.2
Infant Deaths under one year	13
Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand live births)	13.0
Infant Mortality Rate England and Wales	18.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births...	13.2
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	14.08
Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	12.27
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	8.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	19.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	2
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births ...	2

CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	25	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	28	22
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	29
Coronary disease, angina	53	46
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
Other heart disease	12	30
Other circulatory disease	8	9
Influenza	1	-
Pneumonia	16	13
Bronchitis	14	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	2
Congenital malformations	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17	16
Motor vehicle accidents	8	4
All other accidents	4	4
Suicide	6	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	233	217
	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFANT DEATHS

	Under 1 day M. F.	1 - 6 days M. F.	1 week M. F.	2 weeks M. F.	3 weeks M. F.	Total under 1 month M. F.	1 - 2 months M. F.	3 - 5 months M. F.	6 - 8 months M. F.	9-11 months M. F.	Totals M. F.
Prematurity	1 1	- 1	- -	- -	- -	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 2
Atelectasis	1 -	1 1	- -	- -	- -	2 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1
Broncho-pneumonia	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1
Asphyxia	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	2 -
Rhesus											
Incompatibility	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
Septicaemia	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -
Gastro-Enteritis	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1
	4 1	1 2	2 1	- -	- 1	7 5	- -	1 -	- -	- -	8 5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yr.	3 yr.	4 yr.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	over 25 yrs.	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	4	6	1	3	22	2	1	1	42
Whooping Cough	2	8	5	9	8	20	3	3	1	59
Measles	16	47	74	69	76	197	4	2	2	487

	Under 5 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 yrs and over	Total
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	1	3
Acute Encephalitis	2	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

				<u>Notifications</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
				<u>Pulm.</u>		<u>Non-Pulm.</u>		<u>Pulm.</u>		<u>Non-Pulm.</u>	
				<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0	-	1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	4	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	14	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	24	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	34	...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	44	...	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
45	-	54	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	64	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	-	74	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	-	84	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-

FOOD POISONING

An 80 year old lady was admitted to St. Bernard's Hospital, and was notified as suffering from *Salmonella panama*. The old lady died in the hospital shortly afterwards, and her husband, aged 87, also died at about the same time. There were no contacts and no further investigations were made.

A mother and daughter, aged 16, visited Paris for a short holiday, and on return the mother developed symptoms of food poisoning and was subsequently notified as suffering from *Salmonella typhi-murium*. The daughter, aged 16, had no symptoms but faecal samples were positive for *Salmonella typhi-murium*. The mother's faecal sample proved negative and the daughter was put on a course of treatment to which she responded and negative stool samples were obtained. It was thought that the infection may have been due to shell fish consumed whilst they were in Paris.

A bedridden lady aged 54 was notified as suffering from *Salmonella typhi-murium*. No positive source of the infection could be ascertained.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, S.50

The funeral was arranged of a widow aged 74 living alone in a flat in Ashford, who had no next of kin to make the necessary arrangements. The cost to the Council was met by the death grant from the Ministry of Social Security.

WATER

The whole of the area is supplied by public water mains with services direct to the dwellings and there are no standpipe supplies. No action was necessary on any form of contamination of the mains water and the water supply continues to be satisfactory in quality and in quantity.

Most of the area is supplied by the South West Suburban Water Co. from their works on the River Thames near Staines. Raw water is taken direct from the Thames and pumped direct to the mains after rapid filtration and purification.

About 400 dwellings in the Colnbrook area are supplied by the Middle Thames Water Board and 24 dwellings at the Chertsey Bridge area are on the Woking and District Water Company mains. Chemical and bacteriological samples of the raw and treated water are taken regularly by the suppliers and check samples are taken by this department. The samples are very satisfactory.

Fluoride content of South West Suburban Water and the Woking water is normally 0.2 parts per million. The Colnbrook water supply normally has 0.7 to 0.9 parts per million of fluoride present.

None of the waters contain added fluoride but it is hoped the Local Authorities concerned will reach agreement on this so that in future years our children's teeth will benefit from the addition of fluoride.

SEWERAGE

The area has an adequate modern main drainage system. A new sewer was being laid during 1967 to serve a small number of modern houses at present on cesspool drainage. All the sewers drain to the Mogden works of the Greater London Council.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor and is intended to provide a regular weekly collection of domestic refuse. There is interruption of collections at times through labour shortage, particularly after holidays. A more frequent collection of refuse from such premises as food shops and restaurants is necessary.

Disposal of refuse continues to be by incineration at the Charlton Plant which is under the control of the Greater London Council.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

This section of the report gives details of the inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors and the statutory notices served. The report is mainly statistical with some comment on the subjects dealt with.

From the section on housing it will be noted that few houses are now being demolished. This is because the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses has been completed, and it is worth recording that during the past 20 years 453 dwellings have been demolished as unfit for habitation. Most of the occupiers of these unfit houses were rehoused in Council dwellings. The occasional unfit dwelling will still be found as older houses fall into disrepair but under the existing definition of an unfit house as set out in Section 4 of the Housing Act 1957, the number will be small.

The Department has been active in promoting the improvement of older dwellings, and since the improvement legislation came into force with the passing of the Housing Act 1949, 400 dwellings have been improved with the aid of grants. The improvement scheme started very slowly and was not popular with owners; in fact, most of the applications for grant have come from owner/occupiers, but there is an increase in the last few years from owners of tenanted houses, and this is encouraging.

Progress in making the air we breathe cleaner has continued, and elsewhere in this report details are given of the smoke control areas. 12,000 dwellings are now included in smoke control areas; this is about three-quarters of all the dwellings in the Urban District.

Food hygiene continues to demand attention, and we still have some way to go to achieve the standards that one would like to see. It is true that food traders, restaurateurs and cafe proprietors have staff problems and it seems that under present conditions it is difficult to get staff to clean premises and equipment to the required standards.

Staines is one of the districts affected by noise from aircraft using London Airport. Under the British Airport Authority Scheme a grant of up to £100 per dwelling is available for sound-proofing of dwellings in the Staines and Stanwell Wards of the district. 50 applications were approved during 1967, this is a very small proportion of the number that could claim grant. The average cost of soundproofing a room to the prescribed standard was £119.

John Mullin

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,312
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	385
Rent Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500
Food Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	408
Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	442
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drainage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	390
Factories Act, 1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Clean Air Act, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,843
Rodent Control (inspections and survey)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,432
Pest Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	472
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Pollution of streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
Hairdressers (Bye Laws)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	827
Merchandise Marks Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	357
Labelling of Food Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	620
London (Heathrow) Airport	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	367
Sound proofing Scheme								

14,606

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	5	-
Public Health Act, 1936	127	11
Food and Drugs Act, 1955	39	-
Factories Act, 1961	8	-
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	46	-
Clean Air Act, 1956	37	9
	<hr/> 262	<hr/> 20

HOUSING ACT, 1957Details of houses dealt with during 1967Unfit Houses Beyond Repair

Closing Orders made	Section 17	...	...	...	...	...	6
Demolition Orders made	Section 18	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses demolished following Demolition Orders		...	...	...	...	...	12

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Areas represented	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of unfit houses included in Areas	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of persons to be displaced	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of houses demolished by Local Authority or Owners:-						-
(a) Unfit	...	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Others	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of families	...	...	...	...	...	-

Number of houses rendered fit after service of Notices

	<u>Housing Act, 1957</u>		<u>Public Health</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	<u>Sec. 9, 10, 16.</u>		<u>Acts</u>			
	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
By Owner	-	2	53	22	53	24
By Local Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958

as amended by

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959
HOUSING ACT, 1961 and HOUSING ACT, 1964.

Improvement of DwellingsStandard Grants

No. of applications approved	...	...	...	...	...	46
No. of dwellings improved	...	...	...	...	...	40
Total amount paid in grants	...	...	...	...	...	£7,457
Average grant per dwelling	...	...	...	...	...	£186.8.6d.

An area comprising 126 older houses was declared an Improvement Area in March 1966. By informal approach to owners, tenants and the owner/occupiers of all the houses, 12 tenanted houses and 12 owner/occupied houses were provided with standard amenities, usually by building on a bathroom at the rear of the dwellings or converting a small rear bedroom to a bathroom with internal water-closet, wash-basin and hot water supply. A food store was also provided.

At the end of 1967, of the 126 houses in the area, 37 tenanted houses and 12 owner/occupied houses were still without baths, hot-water supply, wash-basin, internal water-closets and food stores. 16 of the tenants did not want these amenities; these were mainly elderly persons who did not want to pay an increased rent. 21 tenants would have liked a bathroom and were willing to pay increased rent, but the owners were not willing for a variety of reasons to carry out improvements voluntarily.

HOUSING ACT, 1964, SECTION 96

It is the policy of the Water Company to require the provision of a separate water service from the main whenever alterations take place at a dwelling, such as the construction of a bathroom or dwellings in one ownership with a common service pipe passing to separate ownership. Section 96 of the Housing Act, 1964 enables the Council to make a grant to meet the whole or part of the cost of providing the separate service. The houses affected are usually older cottages.

Grants were made in respect of five dwellings, the total being £114.8.10d.

RENT ACT, 1957

Certificates of Disrepair

No. of applications for certificates	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of decisions to issue certificates						
(a) in respect of some, but not all defects	...	...	...	...	...	-
(b) in respect of all defects	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of undertakings refused by local authority	...	...	...	...	...	-
Number of certificates issued	...	...	...	...	...	1

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	-
Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	...	...	...	...	...	1
Decisions by local authority to cancel despite tenants' objections						-
Certificates cancelled by local authority	...	...	...	...	...	-

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

The following caravan sites are licensed.

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
Land at Penton Hook, Staines 	22	-
Harris Boatyard, Laleham 	6	18
Caretaker Sites 	4	-

The Council has provided a holiday caravan and camping site at Laleham on the banks of the River Thames. This site is open from May to September each year and is under the control of the Camping Club of Great Britain.

An owner of land was fined £5 for allowing the land to be used for the placing of caravans without a site licence.

COMPLAINTS

During the year 576 complaints on all kinds of subjects were received; all were investigated and any necessary action taken.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections</u>
Bakehouses	4	22
Bakers and Confectioners	18	144
Butchers	32	302
Milk Distribution Depots	2	15
Clubs	14	2
Food and Drink Manufacturers	6	24
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	14	156
Food Hawkers	11	64
Grocers	62	300
Greengrocers	34	227
Public Houses & Off Licences	54	38
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	45	279
School Kitchens & Serveries	18	19
Slaughterhouses	1	442
Wholesalers	9	13
Canteens	20	11
Supermarkets	7	195
Sweets and Confectionery	52	86
	<u>403</u>	<u>2,339</u>

UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	Tons	Cwt.	Lbs.
Meat at slaughterhouse		12	62
Meat at retail shops		14	11
Cooked meat and meat products			65
Canned meats		2	1
Other canned foods		16	103
Fish			40
Fruit and vegetables		-	-
Other foods		5	100
	<u>2</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>46</u>

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. fitted to comply with Reg. 16.</u>	<u>No. where Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. com- plying with Reg.19</u>
Bakehouses	4	4	4	4
Bakers & Confectioners	18	18	18	18
Butchers	32	32	32	32
Milk Distribution Depots	2	2	2	2
Food and Drink Manufacturers	6	6	6	6
Fishmongers & Fishfriers	14	14	14	14
Grocers	62	62	62	62
Greengrocers	34	32	34	34
Public Houses & Off Licences	54	54	54	54
Restaurants, Cafes & Snack Bars	45	44	45	45
School Kitchens & Serveries	18	18	18	18
Slaughterhouses	1	1	1	1
Wholesale Warehouses	9	9	9	9
Canteens	20	20	20	20
Supermarkets	7	7	7	7
Sweets & Confectionery	52	52	52	52
	<u>378</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>378</u>	<u>378</u>

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

87 informal samples of Food and Drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination and analysis, and 85 samples of various foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Details of these samples follow.

Milk

Practically all milk supplied to this area is bulked milk heat treated and bottled by large dairy firms distributing milk over a wide area.

1 sample of fresh milk, 1 sample of evaporated milk, 1 sample of Long Life cream and 1 sample of "top of the milk" were submitted to the public analyst, and all were found to be genuine.

6 samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All were found to satisfy the prescribed tests.

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959Brucellosis

Sampling for brucellosis was not necessary because no raw milk is sold within the area.

Meat and Other Products

21 samples of various products were submitted for analysis and found to be genuine.

45 samples of various meat products were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and all were found to be satisfactory.

Drugs

7 samples of proprietary drugs and medicines were submitted for analysis, and reported as genuine.

Spirits

3 samples of whiskey and 3 samples of gin were tested and found to be satisfactory.

Other Foods

55 samples of various foods and proprietary drinks were submitted for analysis. 50 of these were proved to be genuine and satisfactory.

2 samples of tinned fruit salad were deficient in peach content and a further sample was deficient in cherries having regard to the Code of Practice No.4 of the Local Authorities Joint Advisory Committee on Food Standards.

A sample of shandy was found to be deficient in proof spirit content.

A sample of currants was found to be of poor quality but otherwise satisfactory.

34 samples of various foods including 2 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples were satisfactory and each ice cream sample was placed in provisional grade 1.

Pesticide Residues in Foodstuffs

Joint Sampling Scheme

This scheme, sponsored by the Local Authorities' Associations, provides for the sampling of specific foods by each constituent Food & Drugs Authority.

Samples of minced beef, lettuces and grapes were submitted for examination and were found to contain less than 0.02 p.p.m. organo-chlorine insecticides, which was acceptable.

Labelling of Food Order, 1953

This Order requires pre-packed food to be marked with the name and address or with the registered trademark of the packer or labeller. It also requires such food to be labelled with its common or usual name (if any) and in the case of a compounded food, with the names of the ingredients in descending order of proportion or weight. It also controls the manner in which the presence of vitamins and minerals is disclosed, and prescribes specific labelling of certain food.

A sample of steakburgers with sliced onions and a sample of vegetarian curry sauce included on the labels the word "seasoning" which is a generic and not a specific description and therefore not an appropriate designation.

A sample of tinned meat balls included in the statement of ingredients the word "cereal" which is a generic and not a specific name or description.

A sample of imported cheese did not bear the description "full fat soft cheese" in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the Cheese Regulations 1965.

A sample of diatetic wafer contained a misleading description "for people on diets and diabetics" as it was considered that people on a slimming diet would gain no advantage from the wafer as compared with a similar wafer of the same weight containing sugar.

A sample of "vegetarian bone meal" was considered to be a contradiction in terms.

A sample of creamed coconut was not packaged in an entirely satisfactory manner.

All infringements were taken up with the manufacturers concerned, and satisfactory relabelling or reconstitution of the product concerned was secured.

Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953

357 inspections were made to ensure that the requirements of the various Marking Orders made under the Merchandise Marks Acts were complied with.

Food Complaints

28 complaints concerning purchases of various articles of food were made to the Department during the year. 18 complaints alleged unfitness of the food and 10 complaints concerned foreign bodies or extraneous matter in the food. After investigation of the circumstances of each complaint, 25 were dealt with satisfactorily by informal action and 3 resulted in proceedings being taken against the firms responsible.

Legal Proceedings

A Staines bakery was fined £100 with 5 guineas costs for the sale of a loaf with mouse droppings in it.

The owner of a motor vehicle used for the sale of ice-cream products was convicted of smoking whilst handling ice-cream and for having no first-aid material in the vehicle. He was fined £15 for the first offence and £10 for the second offence with £1.1s. costs.

A large bakery was fined £20 with £5 guineas costs for the sale, at a local supermarket, of a loaf with an insect baked in it.

Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouse

One private slaughterhouse is licensed. The proprietor carries on the business of a wholesale butcher selling dressed carcasses to retail butchers. 6129 animals were killed during 1967; this shows a reduction on the previous year when the total throughput was 8345. Under the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 the Council fixed charges for the inspection of the meat and £288.3.3d. was payable during 1967.

442 visits were made by the Public Health Inspectors to inspect carcasses, and 12 cwt 62 lbs of meat was surrendered as unfit. 3 specimens were submitted for laboratory examination.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemnedin whole or in part

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	544	29	81	3059	2916	-
Number inspected	544	29	81	3059	2916	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	65	8	-	52	98	-
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.95	27.59	-	1.61	3.43	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.27	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration treatment	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956Industrial Smoke

The area is mainly residential and industrial smoke and grit emission is of a minor nature. Two contraventions of the Act by the emission of dark smoke from industrial premises were dealt with.

Under Section 3, four notifications of installations of furnaces were received.

Section 10 of this Act provides that where plans for the erection or extension of a building are submitted in accordance with building regulations and the plans show that it is proposed to construct a chimney for carrying smoke, grit, dust or gases from the building, the local authority shall reject the plans unless satisfied that the height of the chimney will be sufficient to prevent nuisance. Residences, shops and offices are exempted from this section.

Eight proposed buildings were dealt with; two plans showed satisfactory chimney heights and six had chimney heights increased by agreement.

It is difficult to understand the reason for exempting the chimney of, say, a large office block from this section.

Domestic Smoke

The principal source of air pollution in a residential area is smoke from the burning of raw coal in the domestic grate. The extension of the smoke control areas continued in accordance with the Council's policy of declaring one sizeable area each year as the following particulars show.

No. of Smoke Control Areas

1.	In operation at 31st December 1967	7
	Number of dwellings	9879
	Acreage covered	6364
2.	Confirmed by Minister but not operative at 31st December, 1967	1
	Number of dwellings	1218
	Acreage covered	140
3.	Awaiting confirmation by Minister at 31st December 1967	1
	Number of dwellings	1467
	Acreage covered	247

74% of the dwellings and 82% of the acreage of the district is now covered. Observations during the winter months showed that householders have complied with smoke control orders quite well although there were some contraventions. These were dealt with by a visit followed by a written warning, and it was not necessary to take legal proceedings for any contraventions.

DEPOSIT OF REFUSE

Section 94 of the Surrey County Council Act 1931 empowers the Council to grant licences for the deposit of refuse on land; to prescribe the types of refuse that may be deposited and to make conditions for dealing with the refuse to prevent nuisance.

These provisions are useful in this area because a number of gravel pits are in operation and there are also areas of worked out gravel pits. The pits fill with water as the gravel is extracted and are usually about 20 feet deep, the surface of the water being about 3 ft below the adjoining ground. Because of the large areas of water it is essential to control the type of refuse dumped into it to minimise the ever present possibility of nuisance from offensive smells through chemical and bacteriological changes in the water. Prevention of pollution of underground water has also to be considered.

Six licences are in operation; one of the licences permits the deposit of industrial refuse subject to special conditions.

Frequent inspections are necessary to ensure the conditions are met.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises on the register was 575 with 21 new registrations during the year. 572 registered premises received a general inspection during 1967. 46 notifications of non compliance with the various provisions of the Act were sent and these were followed up by re-inspections to ensure that they had been dealt with. The total number of visits for all purposes was 827.

Operation of General Provisions of the Act

The Public Health Department is responsible for administration of the Act and the staff of five Public Health Inspectors are employed part of their time plus one clerk/typist also employed part time. I am sure there is considerable advantage both in administration and from the economic point of view when duties under this Act are carried out by local authority officers. It is usual for the Public Health Inspector to be responsible for a part of his local authority area. This means that every day an inspector is on duty on his district and he is regularly visiting premises registered under the Act for purposes other than the Act. For example, he has to frequently go into food premises such as shops and supermarkets and can, among other matters, note at the time of his visit whether food slicing machinery is being properly used and adequately guarded. This must be of value in accident prevention, and must be more economical in labour than inspections by a specialist inspectorate working from a distant office.

Now that the Act has been in force several years, it is found that the matters needing attention when further inspections are made are accident prevention, maintenance of prescribed temperature, lighting, cleansing and redecoration, maintenance of floors and the content of first aid boxes.

I think it would be true to say that even if this Act had not come into force, there would have been no great departure from such requirements as washing facilities, sanitary accommodation and heating in this area where a shortage of office and shop workers ensures that workers will not stay where conditions are poor. Nevertheless, the parts of the Act dealing with accident prevention are important and valuable since accidents can happen in new and well equipped premises.

Accidents

17 accidents involving absence from work for more than three days were reported. These were all of a minor nature and there were no fatal accidents. Most were due to falling or slipping on floors or stairs and the majority involved persons over 40 years of age. Five of the reported accidents were investigated. Warnings were given in four instances and informal advice on two occasions.

Legal Proceedings

No conditions or circumstances arose which necessitated legal action.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963Registration and General Inspection

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection
Offices	14	163	163
Retail Shops	6	363	363
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	10	10
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	38	35
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	1
TOTALS:	21	575	572

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4 Cleanliness	7	15 Eating facilities	-
5 Overcrowding	-	16 Floors, passages and stairs	9
6 Temperature	7	17 Fencing exposed parts machinery	18
7 Ventilation	2	18 Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
8 Lighting	-	19 Training of young persons at ditto.	-
9 Sanitary Conveniences	5	23 Prohibition of heavy work	-
10 Washing Facilities	8	24 First Aid General provisions	5
11 Supply of drinking water	-		
12 Clothing accommodation	-		
13 Sitting facilities	-		
14 Seats (Sedentary workers)	-		

Total:

61

Workplace	Number Reported	Total No. investigated	Action Recommended			No Action
			Prosecution	Formal Warning	Informal Advice	
Offices	2	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Shops	10	2	-	-	-	2
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	1	-	-	1	1
Catering Establishments open to public, canteens	4	2	-	2	-	-
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	17	5	-	2	1	3

Analysis of reported accidents

	Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel Storage Depots
Machinery	-	2	-	-	-
Transport	1	-	-	-	-
Falls of persons	-	5	-	3	-
Stepping on or striking against object or person	-	-	-	-	-
Handling goods	-	3	-	-	-
Struck by falling object	-	-	1	-	-
Fires and explosions	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity	-	-	-	-	-
Use of hand tools	-	-	-	-	-
Not otherwise specified	1	-	-	1	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	8	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	245	212	8	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	27	29	-	-
Total	276	249	8	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	8	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	8	-	-	-

OUTWORK

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Outworkers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel-Making, etc.	15	-	-	-	-	-

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

There will, it seems, always be work for the rodent operator to do because of the difficulty in completely eradicating rats and mice over a wide area. Human nature plays its part in the build up of infestations through carelessness in providing food for rodents. This is particularly evident along the banks of the River Thames where parties of anglers leave food and unwanted bait on the riverbank after a day's fishing.

A free pest destruction service is provided to occupiers of dwelling houses and this is much appreciated. Domestic infestations continue to be of a minor nature and usually occur in gardens and outbuildings. Many of the industrial and commercial premises are dealt with by pest destruction firms but the services of the Council's staff are available on a cost recovery basis.

723 rat or mice infestations were dealt with. 2432 visits were made for survey and treatment of infested land or buildings.

Other Pests

The Council's staff will exterminate wasps where they are causing nuisance to a householder; for example, where the nest is in or on the house. This is a free service and needs to be used with discretion because the general public has a horror of wasps and wants them exterminated wherever they exist, but it should be remembered that for much of the summer the wasp is a beneficial insect. This point is quite understandably not acceptable to a mother who is afraid her young children will be stung by the colony of wasps in her porch roof.

154 wasps nests were destroyed during the year.

